

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00283 181449Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1431
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0283

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CA
SUBJ: QUEBEC MISSION TO WASHINGTON?

1. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR NORMAND GIRARD NOTED IN HIS COLUMN IN TODAY'S (AUGUST 17) JOURNAL DE QUEBEC THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT GUY LAMARCHE, FORMERLY OF RADIO-CANADA, WOULD BE TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS TO "TEST THE WIND RELATIVE TO THE REACTIONS IN THE AMERICAN CAPITAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUEBEC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON." ACCORDING TO GIRARD, LAMARCHE WAS SELECTED BECAUSE HE HAD ONCE BEEN RADIO-CANADA'S CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON AND "KNOWS THE CITY." GIRARD ALSO MENTIONED THAT LAMARCHE WAS PLANNING TO SET UP IN QUEBEC A "COMMITTEE OF NON-PEQUISTES IN FAVOR OF YES ON THE REFERENDUM" UPON HIS RETURN.

2. COMMENT: GIRARD IS A WIDELY-READ COLUMNIST FOR THE JOURNAL DE QUEBEC AND THE JOURNAL DE MONTREAL, TWIN TABLOIDS CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON CRIME, SEX, AND SPORTS. HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PQ GOVERNMENT, AND NO FRIEND OF CLAUDE RYAN, WHO IS A FAVORITE TARGET. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF LAMARCHE, WHO IS DESCRIBED BY GIRARD AS AN OLD COLLEAGUE ON "SABBATICAL" FROM RADIO-CANADA. THE PURPOSE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00283 181449Z

OF HIS ALLEGED MISSION TO WASHINGTON MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS STATED BY GIRARD. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MINISTER'S "INTERNATIONAL" OPERATIONS CAN BE UNBELIEVABLY NAIVE AND VAGUELY FOCUSED.
MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

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